on marketing and distribution network, Human Resource Development with accent on training and skills development, introduction of Managed Health Care Insurance in India and introducing long term savings linked Personal Accident Insurance Products.

Compassionate Appointments in Nationalised Banks

2061. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rules governing appointments on compassionate grounds in nationalised banks;

(b) whether these rules are strictly followed by the Ludhiana Zonal office of PNB, if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of such applications received during the last three years from different regional offices of that zone, action taken thereon and the reasons for rejections, if any stating rules covering the rejections;

(d) whether some rejected cases from Meerut Regions have been approved by the PNB upon re-considerations; and

(e) if so, the reasons for discriminatory yardsticks in similar cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Appointments on compassionate grounds in nationalised banks are made by the bank concerned, with the approval of the competent authority, as per the scheme formulated by them for such appointments with the approval of their Boards, keeping in view the guidelines issued by the Government, from time to time.

(b) Punjab National Bank (PNB) have reported that requests for appointment in the bank on compassionate grounds are being considered by the competent authority at their Head Office in terms of the Scheme for Employment on Compassionate Grounds, as approved by the Board of Directors. The Zonal Manager of the respective Zones are required to give their recommendations only.

(c) According to the Bank, the details of applications received from dependants of the deceased employees from Ludhiana Zone during the last three years are as under:

Year	Total applications received	Approved for appointment	Number of applications rejected
1996	25	18	7
1997	31	19	12
1998	37	23	14

According to the bank, the applications have been rejected on account of one or more of the following grounds(s):

(i) One of the dependants already gainfully employed;

(ii) Condition of the family not indigent;

(iii) Application being overaged;

(iv) Deceased employee was involved in financial embezzlement / fraud;

(v) Not eligible as the employee was retired on medical grounds after attaining the age of 55 years.

(d) The Bank has further reported that no case from Meerut Region has been approved upon reconsideration during the said 3 years.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Incidents of smuggling of contraband by diplomats

2062. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Saudi diplomats were caught at Indira Gandhi International Airport with contraband gold worth Rs. 3 crores;

(b) the number of other diplomats caught during the last three years indulging in smuggling of contraband goods;

(c) the action taken against them; and